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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Lithuania)
SUBJECT Standard of Living

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SOURCE

1. The living standard of the population is very low. A comparison between salaries and prices should suffice to convey this fact.
2. A position paying 800 rubles a month is very rare.
3. The average salary of an unskilled laborer is approximately 300 rubles. This would be the salary of a single employee. The secretary of a secondary school receives 240 rubles per month, and a concierge - 180 rubles. Should the position become vacant, there are a dozen or more applicants for such meagre salaries. Preference is usually given to a Party member.
4. The salary of a kolkhoz worker who works in the fields is considerably lower. In carrying out the work required of him by his supervisor, a kolkhoz worker cannot earn more than 6.50 rubles per day. There are only 200, or at the maximum, 250 working days per year.
5. A minimum of 350 rubles is necessary in order to live: 120 rubles for rent and heating and 150 rubles in order to eat modestly. However, the minister, academicians, and great artists often earn several thousand rubles and are able to live in relative luxury which is considered shocking because it is so rare. Some engineers are also well paid, but

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I believe they are rare. Mechanics who drive tractors, excavators and other machines receive a salary higher than that of their co-workers. Aviation officers, they say, earn 6,000 per month, but their salary, it seems, ought to be diminished considerably in the near future. Those most poorly paid are the kolkhoz workers and political suspects. The latter have only one resort, this is to have themselves hired as simple laborers for the Great Projects of Communism which are being carried on in Southern USSR and on the banks of the Volga; for this labor no certificate is required.

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